

BIG THOUGHT FILM

"PARENTAGE"

COMING

When a film registers as real, it makes people talk, and when people start talking about any one subject, that particular subject is a success, regardless of whether it is toothpaste, crowbars, or moving pictures. Gossip is responsible for the success of most everything we have in the world.

On Monday Night, May 14th

a seven reel production, entitled "PARENTAGE", is going to make its debut, at THE WEST END MOVIES, and those responsible for the drama declare that ill tempered, sour, peevish, crabbed, fussy old Gossip is going to put the stamp of approval on it.

The subject chosen for the picture is as old as creation, and is without question, one of the most vital, because it effects every man, woman and child in the Universe. It is not a preachment, but a Message. It is the most important topic in every household, and has been, ever since men started to be born. For centuries it has occupied its exalted place, and it will continue to remain there so long as we have the earth, the sky and the sea.

At first, it might appear that "PARENTAGE" is a preachy production. But? it is not; on the other hand, it is one of the most dramatic entertainments shown on the screen since the motion picture was invented. It is a picture which shows the effects of parents' lives upon their children. There is no attempt to obtain thrills or sensations. The theme is beautiful, and the story surrounding it is one that might have been taken from your household, or the household when the eyes that are as dry as the great Sahara will be moved to tears. It touches a responsive note in the human breast of every soul that knows the meaning of divine affection and that is most of us.

To the Voters of Christiansted Country District.

OWING to certain current rumours I beg to state that in the present Electoral campaign I am running on the same ticket as Mr. H. Jessen.

H. BERG.

Memorial Service

for Pastor J. H. FABER, who died in Denmark March 19th 1923, will be held in the Lutheran Church, Frederiksted, Sunday May 13th at 4 p. m.

All are cordially invited to be present.

J. C. PEDERSEN,
Pastor.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I would like to answer a few questions. The Government Secretary says that I enunciate the four cardinal points of taxation. That's correct. As regards the question of equality that will involve an economic discussion which I am not

prepared nor do I think it worth while to enter on today, but if it happens to be my good luck to return to the Council I shall come prepared to answer. He has asked also for an analysis and I will give that now. In 1921 the total acres in cane cultivation in this island was 11,854.14 and in cotton 14 acres giving a total of 11,868.14, if you take that at \$50 per acre and take one percent of that you will arrive at a tax of \$5,934. Pasture land in the different quarters 35,051.60 acres, that at \$25 per acre at one percent gives \$8,762.90. Bush land 4,507.50 acres at \$10 00 per acre at one percent gives \$450.75 which makes a total of \$15,147.65.

The total tax collected in Christiansted Town and Suburbs at the present rate and which will be increased if this ordinance is adopted amounted to in 1921 \$6,515.00. Frederiksted Town in the same year and which will also be increased \$4,375.40. If you add those totals you will arrive at a total of \$26,038.05. The total taxes collected in 1921 under the present system was \$24,567.85.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Chairman. One glance will show that all cane land is worth the maximum value imposed by the Commission. There is a considerable variation in land and it would appear that by placing the maximum on cane and pasture land—Mr. Chairman I would like not to be interrupted.

The Chairman: You have the word.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr Chairman. It is, of course, out of the question to expect all cane land to carry the maximum value. Our company values cane land without buildings at about

\$20 an acre and that's all it can fairly be assessed for at present. I want to come back to the old Congressional Report. I think the 2nd Member for Christiansted Town has stated that this Council has unanimously agreed that the statement made by the Congressional Commission of 1920 where taxation is concerned has no bearing on St. Croix and an investigation is requested, therefore we should await the result of the investigation. I understand that some of these statesmen stated that they found the system of taxation in the Virgin Islands unjust, archaic and inefficient, for the reason, St. Thomas is not paying sufficient and St. Croix too much. If it is the desire to make it more unjust, all right, let us go ahead and raise taxes.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. This discussion is taking a turn I did not expect. This is a question which is of vital importance to us, and everybody on either side should be willing to let a little go. With reference to what the Government Secretary has said, the buildings in town and in the country will make the tax more.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It would be worth while to put on record that St. Croix has an export tax on sugar that St. Thomas and St. John have not got. St. Croix is paying indirectly a formidable road tax amounting to about 40c. an acre while St. Thomas and St. John pay none whatever.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Our Secretary has touched on a point which he will probably remember I did not favor. I contended that we should continue with a land and building tax. To separate the buildings from the land value would increase our taxes considerably. Now that the technical points on taxation have been explained, I would like to make a few general remarks on the subject. It must be borne in mind that this is an agricultural island and we have no other resources to draw on. The present condition of the island resembles, to my mind, a stranded ship with a rebellious crew which is a poor proposition to raise taxes on. While a few brave souls have staked their all in an endeavor to save the ship from becoming a total wreck, the leaders of the crew, backed by men of influence, are doing all they can to keep the ship on the bare rocks. It is not altogether the fault of the rainfall that the island hasn't got a fair crop of sugar this year, (say from five to seven thousand tons), to reap the benefit of the splendid prices quoted at present. Since 1913, approximately, three thousand acres of sugar cane land has been turned out of cane cultivation. Is that because of dry weather or change of administration? No. We have had dry weather before and realized fair crops, as